

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 3593

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, OVIP, NATO, PEPR, FI, IR, NO, TU, UR
SUBJECT: VISIT TO NORWAY OF TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER GUNDUZ
OKCUN, JULY 19-22

SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION: THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT, WITH A DEFINITE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM, ORGANIZED ON 48 HOURS NOTICE A THREE-DAY VISIT FOR TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER GUNDUZ OKCUN. BECAUSE OF THE TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN SUMMER HOLIDAYS, VERY FEW SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE AVAILABLE FOR THE VISIT. HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND WITH A FEW OTHERS WAS PRESENT TO HOST HIS TURKISH COLLEAGUE ON WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A RETURN CALL FOR FRYDENLUND'S FEBRUARY VISIT TO ANKARA. AFTER TWO DAYS OF SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS IN OSLO, THE TURKISH DELEGATION MOVED ON TO BERGEN FOR 48 HOURS R AND R.

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1. SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS: THE SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL TALKS COVERED EAST-WEST RELATIONS, TURKISH BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE USSR, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ECEVIT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, AND TURKISH RELATIONS WITH THE US. OKCUN DEVOTED A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE TIME TO A DESCRIPTION OF HIS PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD RESISTED RUSSIAN PRESSURES TO INCLUDE A POLITICAL CON-

SULTATION CLAUSE IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT WHICH THE TWO SAID THAT THE TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MOSCOW MEETING WERE VERY SURPRISED AT THE SOVIET UNION'S FORTHCOMINGNESS ON THE BLACK SEA DEMARCATION LINE ISSUE. THEY HAD COME TO MOSCOW PREPARED TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WHICH THEY EXPECTED WOULD CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND INSTEAD DISCOVERED THE SOVIETS READY TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE BOUNOBRY. THE TURKS INTERPRETED THIS AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF RATHER CHILLY RELATIONS.

2. US/TURKISH RELATIONS: TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD FRYDENLUND HOW UNHAPPY HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN AT UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S "PUNY" EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. OKCUN SAID THAT THE GOT EXPECTED THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO MAKE NO MOVE AT ALL AS LONG AS THE US EMBARGO REMAINED IN EFFECT. IN GENERAL, THE NORWEGIANS NOTED A DEFINITE MODERATION IN THE TONE OF THE TURKISH PRESENTATIONS ON THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE US.

3. MIDDLE EAST: OKCUN TREATED FRYDENLUND TO A LONG ACCOUNT OF HIS VARIOUS RECENT TRAVELS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TOLD HIM THAT ALL OF HIS HOSTS HAD SAID HOW DISAPPOINTED THEY WERE WITH WASHINGTON'S EVIDENT LACK OF CONCERN FOR THE SITUATION DEVELOPING IN PAKISTAN IN THE WAKE OF THE AFGHAN COUP. THE IRANIANS HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY STRONG IN EXPRESSING THEIR FEARS THAT A NEW HORN OF AFRICA
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SITUATION COULD BE DEVELOPING THAT FEATURED ATTEMPTS AT ENCIRCLEMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION.

4. THE NONALIGNED GROUP: TURKEY, ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN, IS SERIOUS IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH A NEW KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NONALIGNED WORLD. IT HAS ALREADY PUT OUT FELLERS ABOUT POSSIBLY APPLYING FOR OBSERVER STATUS AND HAS DEFINITE PLANS TO APPLY LATER. IN RESPONSE TO FRYDENLUND'S QUESTION, OKCUN SAID THAT THE GOT SEES NO PROBLEM IN RECONCILING ITS OBSERVER STATUS WITH ITS NATO MEMBERSHIP AS PORTUGAL IS ALSO A NATO ALLY AND AN OBSERVER WITH THE NONALIGNED GROUP. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE TALKS, THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY IS NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT THAT THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER SHARES HIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEVOTION TO THE NONALIGNED MOVEMENT.

5. TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY: OKCUN CHARACTERIZED TURKEY'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY AS A POLICY OF THE THREE DS--DETENTE, DISARMAMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT. A POLICY, HE SAID, WHICH WAS AIMED AT ACHIEVING A MORE BALANCED RELATIONSHIP WITH

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THE EAST AND WITH THE NONALIGNED WORLD AND WHICH WOULD
ALSO FOSTER TURKISH INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT.

6. SUBSTANTIVE ECONOMIC CONVERSATIONS: THE TURKISH
DELEGATION CAME TO ITS MEETINGS WITH THE NORWEGIANS
WITH A LONG SHOPPING LIST WHICH THEIR HOSTS WERE NOT REALLY
PREPARED TO DISCUSS. AS A SENIOR MFA REPRESENTATIVE
POINTED OUT TO EMBOFF, THE JOINT TURKISH-NORWEGIAN ECONOMIC
COMMISSION UNDER GON FINANCE MINISTER KLEPPE HAD ONLY
JUST FINISHED ITS TALKS THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE FOREIGN
MINISTER'S ARRIVAL. HOWEVER, CERTAIN PROJECTS WERE
COVERED. THE TURKS WERE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN HAVING
THE NORWEGIANS SEND A TECHNICAL OIL EXPLORATION TEAM TO
TURKEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR WORK IN THE BLACK SEA. THE
GON AGREED TO DO SO IN PRINCIPLE, AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD
TAKE UP THE SUBJECT AT THE NEXT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING
WHICH TAKES PLACE IN SIX MONTHS. THE TURKS EVIDENCED SOME
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INTEREST IN RENTING NORWEGIAN PASSENGER SHIPS BUT DIDN'T SEEM TOO HAPPY AT THE PRICE. OKCUN ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN NORWAY AND TURKEY AND DISCUSSED IN GENERAL THE SALE AND/OR THE JOINT PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, FIRE CONTROL, AND NAVAL MATERIEL. THE NORWEGIANS AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE SUBJECT BUT ARE NOT REALLY INTERESTED.

7. BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL WELFARE: THE ONLY AGREEMENT TO COME OUT OF OKCUN'S VISIT TO NORWAY WAS A BILATERAL AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR RIGHTS OF FOREIGN WORKERS TO RECEIVE PENSION BENEFITS IN NORWAY OR TURKEY. WHILE THIS IS OF LITTLE BENEFIT TO NORWEGIANS, IT WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT HELP TO THE APPROXIMATELY 2,500 TURKS WHO WORK IN NORWAY.

8. CONCLUSION: THE NORWEGIANS WERE A LITTLE PUZZLED BY NOT ONLY THE HASTE BUT ALSO THE NECESSITY FOR FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN'S VISIT AND INTERPRETED IT AS BEING MORE FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS DOMESTIC TURKISH AUDIENCE THAN FOR ANY SUBSTANTIVE FOREIGN POLICY PURPOSE. WHILE THE NORWEGIANS INVOLVED FOUND THE SESSIONS INTERESTING, THEY CHARACTERIZED THEM AS BEING LESS THAN TOTALLY PRODUCTIVE AND A LITTLE PREMATURE.
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